

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated February 24, 2004. Claims 10-19 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant provisionally elects for continued prosecution of the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-9 and 20-25) drawn to an optical communication system to extend a range or data communications. Thus, Applicant requests examination of claims 1-9 and 20-25.

To advance the prosecution of the application, claims 10-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a divisional application with respect to these claims at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

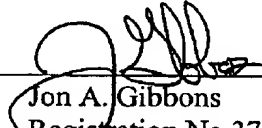
The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct future correspondence regarding this application to the undersigned attorney at the address below.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 17, 2004

By: _____


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